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9 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Turner  
FROM : Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence RL  
SUBJECT : Key Intelligence Questions

1. The President's remarks this afternoon suggest that he does not fully understand the purpose of the KIQs. They do not represent our priorities, which are embodied in DCID 1/2, but rather those subjects of high priority upon which Community attention needs to be focused in the short run.

2. Had we had time to complete the scheduled program, I would have said:

National Intelligence is both the end and the beginning of the work that we have described to you today. It is the end because it is the summation of all of our work in the estimates and assessments that underpin national policymaking at the NSC level. It is the beginning because after each estimate is completed we review it to identify the most critical gaps and weaknesses in our information. We then devise a strategy for collection and analysis that will enable us to prepare a better estimate the next time it is called for. The KIQs serve to notify the Community that we consider these the most important gaps and weaknesses. They do not represent our overall priorities.

3. [redacted] people have seen this and concur.

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